

March 5, 2019

Ellen Reckhow, Chair
Will Allen III, Vice Chair
Members, GoTriangle Board of Trustees

RE: Durham-Orange Light Rail Project

Dear Chair Reckhow and Members of the GoTriangle Board of Directors:

The undersigned organizations from the Duke University, Durham County, Orange County, and statewide environmental communities have authorized this letter to the GoTriangle Board to ask your continued support for the Durham-Orange Light Rail Project (DOLRT).

We find the recent failure of Duke University President Vince Price to support the rail project to be deeply troubling and without any basis in fact. The excuses offered by the University's administration about patient safety and hospital operations cannot hide the fact that GoTriangle's staff has offered substantial and reasonable ways to address all of Duke's concerns.

We urge you to direct GoTriangle's staff to continue to pursue all reasonable options for moving the light rail project forward to a federal grant and construction. We all know that the project will mean significant new job opportunities and economic development for many years to come. It will also provide affordable transportation to all residents and complement the large commitments that we are making to affordable housing. Importantly, the DOLRT will be a vital link in a rail system that will tie our region together and serve as the backbone of a robust public transportation system.

This rail project is simply too important to our communities to allow a single private landowner to kill it. In the event that you find there are no ways for the DOLRT to move forward, we ask that you strongly consider ways to recover the large investment made by our local communities from Duke University in reliance on their prior statements and agreements. Our organizations stand ready to support and assist your efforts to continue development of the light rail project going forward, and we appreciate all that your Board and staff have done to bring the project to this point.

Sincerely,

1. Abundant Hope Christian Church
2. Blacknall Presbyterian Church
3. Chatham-Orange Sierra Club
4. Clean Air Carolina
5. Duke Climate Coalition

6. Duke Independent Film Festival
7. Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
8. Durham CAN
9. Durham Coalition for Affordable Housing and Transit
10. Durham Community Land Trustees

11. Durham Congregations in Action (62 churches)
12. Durham Early Head Start
13. Durham for All
14. Durham Friends Meeting
15. Durham Housing Authority

16. Durham People's Alliance
17. Durham Presbyterian Church
18. El Buen Pastor Episcopal Church
19. Emmaus Way
20. Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

21. Environmental Alliance
22. Families Moving Forward
23. First Chronicles Community Church
24. First Presbyterian Church
25. Grant Street Neighborhood Association

26. Holy Cross Catholic Church
27. Holy Infant Catholic Church
28. Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
29. Jubilee House
30. Judea Reform Congregation

31. League of Conservation Voters
32. Monument of Faith Church
33. Mount Level Missionary Baptist Church
34. NC Conservation Network
35. NCCU-CAN Chapter

36. Nehemiah Christian Center
37. New Creation United Methodist Church
38. NEXT Chapel Hill-Carrboro-Orange County Transit Advocates
39. Nicholas School Student Council
40. North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness

41. North Carolina Housing Coalition
42. People's Alliance
43. Pilgrim United Church of Christ
44. Saint Philip's Episcopal Church
45. Southern Environmental Law Center

46. The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People
47. The Nicholas Forestry and Environmental Management Board
48. Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
49. WakeUp Wake County
50. Watts Hospital Neighborhood Association

51. Watts Street Baptist Church